



Pantry Partner

C/O North Dakota Community Action Association

Volunteers: How to Find 'Em & How to Keep 'Em

Do you ever find your organization running short on volunteers? Do you routinely tack "Volunteers Wanted" posters around town and wait for interested individuals to come to you?

Next time you find yourself in need of volunteers, you may want to consider a new approach. Sit down with board members and other volunteers and evaluate the specific needs you have within your organization.

Create a written "job description" for potential volunteers and a list of duties needed to be accomplished. Target your recruitment to specific individuals or groups in your community who have the specific skills you are looking for. People most often volunteer when they feel as if they are a valuable asset to your organization.

An alternative approach to general recruiting and a



Mark your calendars!
April 22nd - 28th, 2001
is
National Volunteer
Recognition Week.

great public awareness tool is a booth in your local grocery store, bank, high school cafeteria, church, etc. A current volunteer could staff the booth for a few hours and give personal testimony on the joys of volunteering to interested individuals. In addition, the volunteer

could pass out information about the services provided by your organization, the numbers of families served or even collect donations of food.

Once you have volunteers, you want to keep them! The best way to do that is to recognize them regularly for their commitment and dedication. Some inexpensive ways to honor your volunteers include:

- Sending them birthday, anniversary, and holiday cards
- Sending a thank you letter to their employer or family—thanking them for supporting your volunteer's efforts
- Presenting a framed photo of the volunteer hard at work.
- Creating computer-made business cards for the volunteer (also a great promotional tool for your organization)



"Share The Warmth"

This winter, over 1,184 households in North Dakota will be facing the threat of no electricity to keep them warm. With the cost of heating nearly tripled since this time last year, the threat is growing at an alarming rate.

There is a program that aids low-income families and individuals. The *Energy*

Share Program is a collaborative effort between the ND Community Action Association and utility companies. The program provides financial assistance to those in need. Hardee's restaurants are also joining in the efforts. You can stop by your local Hardee's during regular breakfast hours on Friday,

February 9th and purchase a Sausage and Egg biscuit for \$1 (tax included). One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Energy Share Program to aid with home utility needs in your community. Please encourage friends and families to participate and give the gift of warmth during this cold winter season.

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A pull-out tool to help you solicit donations for your food pantry!

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In the Spirit of Community... New England Open Door Food Pantry

Pastor Murphy
New England
Open Door Food Pantry,
New England,
North Dakota

The halls and classrooms of the former New England boarding school have been quiet for years. However, nestled in its quiet corridors, is the result of a collaborative partnership between area churches and volunteers. The *New England Open Door Food Pantry* provides relief for area families and individuals in need of food. Volunteers from four local churches make sure the pantry is accessible at all times. The philosophy of the Pantry holds true to its name, *Open Door*. Help is available to anyone in

need—no questions and no paperwork requested.

Pastor Murphy, the current President of the Board of Directors for the pantry, states "Our community and the surrounding area are very creative with services. Collaborating allows us to do more with the resources we have."

The pantry receives a majority of its financial and food donations from the local churches. In addition, assistance comes in various forms from Community Action & Development of Dickinson, Salvation

Army, local Boy & Girl Scouts, and Lutheran Social Services.

In an effort to raise awareness of community needs and promote a legacy of helping those in need, the pantry awards scholarships to local high school students seeking higher education in a community or human service field.

Pastor Murphy can only sit back and smile as he looks around the pantry packed from ceiling to floor and states, "I can't think of a better example of a community working together."

Another Example of Community Collaboration Belfield Food Pantry

If anyone accepts my help who doesn't need it...that is their problem. If I refuse to give my help to anyone who needs it...that's my problem.

That is the sign that greets all those who enter the Belfield Food Pantry. The pantry, in operation since the late 1980's, does just what the sign says... help those in need. It is the spirited volunteers that make it "their problem or personal mission" to make sure no one goes hungry in their community.

Much like the New England Open Door Food Pantry mentioned above,

the Belfield Pantry is also the result of the area churches collaborating to meet a growing community need.

Doris Urban and Florence Obeigewitsch are two of the many volunteers dedicating their spare time to operating the pantry. They are both quick to stress the importance of collaboration and treating clients with dignity and respect.

Doris explained one way in which they utilize local, youth groups and high school students: "We look to them for help with unloading delivery trucks and packing food baskets

during the holidays. They are always willing to help."

In addition, Florence explained how they prepare nutritious and easy recipes for clients to sample as they pick up food from the pantry. "We also put a copy of the recipe in their food basket. It is just a small way to show people they do have creative choices when cooking on limited budgets."

Persons seeking aid from The Belfield Food Pantry are sure to be greeted with a caring smile and a genuine helping hand.

Doris Urban
&
Florence Obeigewitsch
Belfield Food Pantry,
Belfield, North Dakota

Otto Bremer Foundation



The Otto Bremer Foundation has recently announced its latest granting initiative, the *Bremer Organizational Effectiveness Program*. The program is a commitment aimed at strengthening the capacity of non-profit organizations in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Foundation recognizes that, with limited staff and budgets, it is often difficult for non-profits to commit time and resources to improving organizational effectiveness. Through this new program, non-profits can apply for grants to assist with:

- *Developing customized workplans*
- *Offsetting expenses associated with trainings and other skill enhancements*
- *Developing self-assessment models*
- *Improving board governance*
- *Strategic Planning*
- *And more!*

For more information contact the Otto Bremer Foundation at 1-888-291-1123.



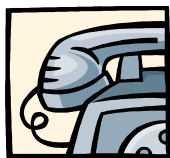
Recognize a Leader in Your Community

Leadership for a Changing World, a new awards program sponsored by the Ford Foundation, will honor 20 outstanding leaders or leadership groups who work on community-based social issues. The program recognizes leaders who work in such areas as community development, hunger alleviation, education and much more. Recipients of the awards will receive \$100,000 over two years for their program work in addition to a \$30,000 Independent Learning Account. These funds will be made available to the recipients' nonprofit organization. Leaders must be nominated by a person who knows the leader and can attest to the leader's qualifications. For more information and nomination forms, call 202-777-7560.



Techniques for Grantwriting Part I & II

Bismarck State College is offering a seminar to help you gain the skills and knowledge needed to write strong grant proposals. Part I will be held March 21st from 1:00 to 3:50 pm and will focus on letter proposals and contents of a full grant. Part II will be held April 25th also from 1:00 to 3:50 pm and provide tips on proposal submission, proposal appearance and much more. The cost of each seminar is \$45 and is conducted via the interactive video network at the following locations: *Bismarck State College, Minot State University, ND State University, Dickinson State University and the University of ND*. For more information contact the Corporate and Continuing Education Division at 701-328-9841 or 1-800 -852-5685.



Home Telephone Assistance

Do you have clients that do not have access to a telephone? The *Link Up and Lifeline Programs* can help eligible people with a portion of their telephone costs. If an individual qualifies for food stamps, Medicaid or other social services they will automatically qualify for telephone assistance.

The *Link Up Program* may help eligible persons to:

- Save 50% off of the initial hook-up charges, defer payments and waive interest, and qualify for service without a deposit.

The *Lifeline Program* may help eligible persons to:

- Save at least \$5.25 on a monthly phone bill (for primary local telephone service).

For more information about these programs, refer your clients to their local telephone service provider.

RESOURCES

- Obtain a helpful and free weekly newsletter with local funding news and grant tips by emailing a request to: jreis@mcf.org
- The Advertising Council has joined forces with the TV channel MTV to produce a handbook aimed at helping non-profits recruit young adult volunteers more effectively. Entitled, "Engaging the Next Generation," the manual recommends helping young persons to make personal connections to causes and much more. For free copies of the publication contact: 212-922-1676.
- Recycled computers and other equipment is routinely available from *The Resource Center* located in Fargo. The Center solicits donations of computers and various pieces of equipment from businesses. The equipment is then re-distributed to non-profit organizations in need. For more information contact *The Resource Center* at 877-233-8966.
- Are you revising your organization's personnel policies? The ND Department of Labor will review personnel policies at NO COST and provide valuable feedback. Send policies to: ND DOL, 600 East Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505.



Contact LRR at 1-800-950-2901.

Lutheran Rural Response

Collaborating to aid rural North Dakota
Information provided by Lutheran Rural Response

Lutheran Rural Response (LRR), a program of Lutheran Social Services, focuses on bringing healing, help and hope to rural communities, families and individuals. Floods, high water tables, low commodity prices and other problems have contributed to the many challenges rural areas are experiencing.

In an effort to bring relief, LRR offers a wide variety of programs to those in need. Some of the programs and services include the

following:

- **Food Assistance:** Boxes containing reclaimed grocery products are available to food cupboards, food shelves, churches and communities.
- **Free Lutheran Social Services Counseling:** Available by phone or in office.
- **Resource Connection Services:** A resource specialist is available to help connect people to available resources.

Resource directories for all ND counties and regions are also available.

- **Special Programs:** Presentations or retreats that address specific issues for schools, communities or groups.

LRR provides services to *all* rural families regardless of religious affiliation. For more information on services or contact persons in your area call: 1-800-950-2901 or check out their website at www.lrrnd.org.



Information Request

For any additional information or to submit a news bit for the next newsletter, please complete this form and return it the address listed below.

Please send me additional information on:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Gleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Dialog Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Needs Assessment Study |

- ☐ I would like to contribute a story, or news bit for the next newsletter. Please contact me.

Comments:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

C/O North Dakota Community
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2105 Lee Avenue
Bismarck ND 58504

Protecting Food Donors

Ever wonder what would happened if a good-intending person donated food to your pantry and it later caused a recipient to become ill? *The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* protects good-faith food donors from civil and criminal liability. The law protects food donors, including individual private citizens, wholesalers, and non-profit feeding programs who act in good faith. The act provides protection for food and grocery products that meet all quality and labeling standards imposed by federal, state and local laws and regulations even though the food may not be "readily marketable due to appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus or other conditions.




**Increasing your
impact on hunger
in North Dakota.**

Making the Most of Your Donation

**Over 27,000 people
utilize food pantries
in North Dakota
every year.**

Did you know that a \$10 donation to your local food pantry could purchase nearly 70 pounds of food with a retail value of \$147 for those in need in your community? D





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C/O North Dakota Community Action Association
2105 Lee Avenue
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NDCAA.ORG

This newsletter was made possible with a *Community Food & Nutrition Grant* from the *North Dakota Division of Community Services*.



Check out:
www.crisnd.com

State Service Providers Unveil One-Stop Web Site

Recently, a collaborative effort among thirteen service providers targeting workforce development launched a web site. The site is designed to improve the delivery of client services. The *Customer Resource Information System*, aka *CRIS*, is a website full of searchable information on services, programs, and contacts offered by the thirteen partners.

"The concept for *CRIS* began as a means to simplify case management and reduce duplication of services between providers", according to Fraine Zeitler, former director of the North Dakota Workforce Development Council. In addition, Zeitler states, "We are excited about what clients, case workers, and the general public will be able to discover on the site. This site is another step toward streamlining services and putting the system to work for our customers, instead of expecting our customers to work to understand the system."

The thirteen partners that submit service information to *CRIS* include the following:

AARP Senior Employment Program, Burdick Job Corps Center, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Instruction, Division of Community Services, Green Thumb, Job Service ND, Motivation, Education, Training, Inc. (MET), ND University Systems, ND Workforce Development Council, State Board for Vocational and Technical Education, Veteran's Employment and Training Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

For more information about *CRIS* contact the Workforce Development Council at 701-328-5345 or check out the website at :

www.crisnd.com